Hendrey, William Belfry

Jan.-June 1917

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January 16th, 1917

Colonel W. P. Hendry,

No. 4 Canadian General Hospital (University of Toronto)

Salonica, Greece.

Dear Colonel Hendry:

I have just heard that Colonel Roberts is likely to remain a little while in London because Mrs. Roberts has gone across May I therefore ask you who I suppose are acting in his place to give my good wishes to all your staff ?

I assume that you look upon the honour of the C.B. which has just been bestowed upon Colonel Roberts as a tribute to the fine work that you have all done in the Hospital. That is the way in which we regard it. You all have a share in it and it is a great satisfaction to know that your services have been so generously recognised.

I hope that you will not be left after the spring in Salonica. I have twice written to London urging them to recall the Hospital. I have also urged them to let us know when men were needed to relieve any of the staff who are now in Salonica. Apparently they still go on their own way. Possibly after the upset of affairs in London there may be some change.

Mrs. Roberts told me that her husband had written to her that he had cabled to me for three men to relieve some of the staff. This cable never reached me, and I judge from his last letter that he found that the London authorities paid little heed to his requests.

I have been sorry to hear that so many of the staff have had sickness. I suppose that by this time whose who have been invalided are back in Salonica.

Please give my kind regards to everyone. We all hope that there will soon be a change for the better.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

British Salonika Force,
February 12th, 1917.

Dr. R.A.Falconer,
President of The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr. President,--

Your letter of the 16th of January arrived this morning and it gave me great pleasure to extent to the members of the unit your greetings.

We have looked upon the honour which has been bestowed on the Officer Commanding very much in the same light as you have done at home, and it is a satisfaction to know that the efforts and good work of the unit have been recognized by the bestowing of a "C.B." on Colonel Roberts.

I have only today received a War Office communication dated January 23rd, conveying the information that Colonel Roberts is retained in England on duty and should be struck off the strength of this command. Although, except for a short note which Captain Van Wyck brought back on his return from leave to the effect that he was retained in England in connection with the reorganization of the staff, I have had no communication from Colonel Roberts since he left for England on December 18th, I presume that this intimation from the War Office does not necessarily mean that he is severing his connection with the unit. At present, of course, I have command, but nothing has appeared in C.A.M.C. orders concerning the matter. As these matters usually take considerable time to be recorded, I have no doubt that in a few weeks they will all be straightened out.

As I told Dr. Clarke in a letter written January 29th, we have received word through the War Office that the unit, along with the other Canadian units in this area, will be recalled if and when it can be replaced by R.A.M.C. personnel. This order is rather vague and gives the War Office considerable latitude in the matter of moving us. As a matter of fact, it is quite possible, since the end of the war is supposed to be in sight, that we may be retained here until that end is accomplished. Personally, of course, I think that no individual would remain here any longer than is absolutely necessary, if he had his own choice in the matter. The Officers of the unit feel quite willing to remain with it wherever it is sent, and at the same time they feel that if the end is near at hand it would be false economy to put the unit out of action, so to speak, for a couple of months at what may be a very busy time.

From your enquiry concerning the Officers who have been invalided I conclude that you have been under the impression that our invalided officers return to the unit on their recovery. This, I am sorry to say, has not been the case,

except in two instances, when two of our younger officers, Captain Aitken and Captain McClelland, who came as reinforcements early in the summer and were afterwards invalided to Malta suffering from Dysentery, returned to this Hospital after their convalescence was completed. Of all our original officers who have been invalided, not one has returned to this area. It is quite possible, however, that when we reach England we shall be able to get back Captains McPhedran, Wilson, Gallie and Boyer.

It seems to me that if you were to make a definite offer to replace the wastage and a definite request to the authorities at Ottawa to be supplied with the names or the number of officers invalided from this unit, that the matter could be satisfactorily arranged. There is so much red tape about all things military that an offer to do certain things is not enough; it should be accompanied by a definite request for authority to carry out the conditions of the offer. You will understand that my hands are somewhat tied in connection with this, but much can be done from your end. It would be a simple matter, for instance, if officers could be invalided from the unit in the usual way, and notification of the same sent by us direct to you, on the receipt of which you could at once send out a substitute f rom the University, who would be taken on the strength of the Training School on his arrival in England and sent to us direct as soon as transportation could be arranged. This matter, I think, is worthy of your careful consideration, for it is only in this way that we can hope to maintain the identity of our unit as a University Hospital.

As to the work of the unit at the present time I may say that we have been kept fairly busy during the fall and winter months. Our average daily number of patients has not fallen below 700 at any time and during February we have averaged over 800,- today for the first time we have a few less than that number. Most of the cases are, as they have usually been, medical. The diseases are those incident to this season of the year, such as Trench Fever, Nephritis, Bronchitis, Rheumatism, etc.

The Nurses have been in pretty good health on the whole, but the dull weather and the rainy season have prevented their getting out for exercise and fresh air. Now, however, the weather seems to have changed for the better,- the days are bright, and the ground is drying up; consequently they are all feeling brighter and keener for their work. Four Nurses are at present on leave to the United Kingdom and we hope to arrange to send ten more very shortly. The Officers are in fine shape. None of them has been laid up for more than trivial things for some time and prospects are bright for the good health of the unit.

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Regarding the men of the unit, I am sorry to say that we are losing a great number of our most valuable men, who are taking advantage of the War Office request for applicants for Commissions in the Imperial Forces. We cannot prevent these men from leaving us without running the risk of a severe reprimand and as we have a number of men who wish to go I have reluctantly given my consent and consequently the unit will be somewhat weakened in efficiency for a time. However, in spite of all our losses in Officers and men, we can still carry on and even now I think we are the strongest hospital in this area from the points of efficiency and specialization.

I myself have kept in excellent health ever since we arrived in Salonika, and expect to remain so until the war is over.

With best regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Lieut.-Colonel, C.A.M.C.

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February 23rd, 1917

Colonel W. P. Hendry,

No. 4 Canadian General Hospital (University of Toronto),

Salonica, Greece.

Dear Colonel Hendry:

I had a letter yesterday from Sir George Perley telling me that in the meantime you have been appointed O.C. No.4. This is in accordance with our recommendation, and it will give satisfaction to everyone. I have the impression that it would be permanent only they have also promised to do what they can to bring the Hospital back to England or France before the opening of the summer. Sir George Perley tells me that they have met great difficulties by reason of transport and that it may be hard for them to make the transfer at once.

At the same time he speaks in the warmest terms of the work that has been done by you and your staff in Salonica. Of course this is simply in confirmation of what we have heard again and again. I have asked Dr. Clarke to make judicious selections from the letter and have them sent to the papers.

We are all pleased that there is a prospect of your being brought back to France or England after your long service in the East. As you know we have been urging this upon the authorities since the end of last summer.

I suppose that this winter you are carrying on much as you did last winter, your attention being engaged mainly with the work that is always to hand by reason of the presence of a large number of soldiers. In this morning's paper we read that the French and Italians have linked up, and this may be a prelude to some advance.

Stanley Ryerson looks very much pulled down. I had been hoping to see him again recently, but I have not had the chance for a fortnight. I think, however, that something will be got for him at home. I have written on his behalf to the authorities.

The greatest matter of interest now is the fact that we have been so short of coal that for the last ten days we have had to close the laboratories that were on the main heating plant and are simply running at enough heat to keep the frost out. A little heat is thrown in the morning in our administrative offices, but we have had to make arrangements in a number of outside places to carry on the lectures. Unfortunately most of the laboratories are closed. Medicine, except in the first year, has not suffered quite so badly, because they can do their work in the Pathological Building and in the Hospitals. Dr. Grange has put a large room at the Veterinary College at our disposal also. We shall have to keep on as we are for another week, but the situation is slowly clearing, and I have some hope that we may be able to open up again early in March.

You will have seen that we have been attacked by Queen's University for introducing the new six years' course in

Medicine in 1918. I am sending you a copy of our reply which you may be interested in.

I am sending you another memorandum that will show you that there has been some talk about closing the University next winter. However, that is going to come to nothing, but it will do no harm to have some sections of the country know the reasons why we are keeping open.

There is a great deal of coming and going this winter. We see quite a number of returned men and I am afraid that at home recruiting has come to a stand still. A good many people are realising that we must throw a great deal more energy than we have thrown into production, and that if we are to send more soldiers it will be necessary to introduce compulsory service. It is possible that if the States were to come into the war this would become easier for us. We are hoping, however, that before another session opens the war will be at an end, but it is necessary to keep on at our full strength, and I think there is about as much work being done as ever.

Will you please give my kind regards to the members of your staff and let them know that the Minister of Militia in London, Sir George Perley, has spoken in the warmest possible terms of the work that the Hospital has done in Salonica ? We know how trying it must be for you and how tiresome the days are when you have been there so long, but we appreciate what you have done. With kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

President.

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

British Salonika Force,
March 22nd, 1917.

Dr. R.A.Falconer,
President of The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr.President,-

Since last writing you or Dr.Clarke, orders have been received in which I am posted to the command of No.4 Canadian General Hospital from January 30th.1917.

I have not of course been in touch with either Colonel Roberts or the University authorities since this order, or in fact at any time, with regard to matters of finances, and I dare say that nothing in this matter can be arranged until the return of the unit to England. This is still a matter of conjecture, at least as regards time, we are no further ahead from the point of view of information on the subject than we were six weeks ago. Nobody here seems to know anything more about the matter than was known at the time of the first notification from the War Office, and like ourselves, Headquarters here are awaiting further instructions from England.

[redacted]

The situation of affairs regarding Nursing Sisters is giving us a little concern. The Nurses have been doing splendid work but have been under constant strain ever since last summer and there seems tobe no immediate prospect of any relief for them.

A couple of months ago we wrote to London asking for reinforcements but London's reply was that in view of the prospects of our recall they would not at present send any Nursing Sisters out; as a result of this we are now running short handed, having only 51 Nurses on our strength now instead of 73 as we had originally. The Matron-in-Chief here, however, has been good enough on two occasions to supply us with Nurses for relief, and I have asked for authority locally to obtain reinforcements from the Imperial service as the necessity arises. I have also cabled London that Nursing reinforce--ments are urgently required and asked that thirty be sent. This ought to bring some result very shortly,-if not, they will hear from me again.

The Nursing situation is the only

one however which has given us any concern. It is quite possible to run a hospital with a shortage of Officers, but in order to run it efficiently, one must have a sufficient number of Nurses, for we have found out here that more than anything else the Nurses have built up the reputation of No.4.

Just at present we are somewhat short of Medical Officers, but are not greatly inconvenienced on that account. On request of the A.D.M.S. I allowed two of the younger Officers, Captains Aitken and Molleur to be attached for temporary duty with a Field Ambulance in the area; and four Officers, Captains Pearse, Sharpe, Imrie and Marlow are now on leave in the United Kingdom.

Captain Fletcher received orders to proceed to England and left only a few days ago. This, I presume, was the result of pressure brought to bear from home at the time of his Father's illness; evidently a case similar to that of Captain Boyer's recall. Capt.Fletcher did not want to go and we were very sorry to lose him, for he has done most excellent work, particularly in the treatment of Dysentery, which he has had in hand during the past year. I cannot speak too highly of the way in which he has carried out his duties; he has been thoroughly competent and conscientious in every way. You will see him, of course, on his arrival, as I told him to call on you particularly, and give you a more detailed account of what is going on than is possible in a letter.

Regarding the ultimate destination of the unit, I am not in a position to tell you anything. I wish I knew what was going to become of us on our arrival in England. Colonel Roberts has suggested the re-assembling of the Unit at Taplow. I do not know just what this would mean regarding the maintaining of the identity of the Unit. Taplow is a very fine place, but if going there would mean the losing of the name, I would be sorry to see this take place; we have made our reputation as No.4 Canadian General Hospital and we wish to remain known as No.4 C.G.H. until the end of the war. On the other hand, if we are recalled in drafts it will be some time before the unit can be re-assembled in England, or any other place, and it will be months before we can get together as an effective working entity. It is a peculiar situation but I am trying to be philosophic enough to await the outcome of events, and will do the best I can to cope with any situation which may arise.

The health of the unit is very good at present. Everybody seems contented and enthusiastic and I have the loyal support of Officers, Nurses and men.

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I trust that you are keeping well and that the change of the command is causing you no anxiety.

With best regards to Mrs.Falconer and yourself, I am

Yours sincerely,

W. Bruce

Lieut,-Colonel C.A.M.C

4023

[illegible], 1917

Lieutenant-Colonel, [illegible],

No. 4 Canadian General Hospital (University of Toronto),

Salonica, Greece.

Dear [illegible]:

I was very glad to get your letter [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] hospital [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] that I had the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that [illegible] we can [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] will [illegible] [illegible] under [illegible].

[illegible] report came that [illegible] and killed [illegible] at a British Hospital, the location of which [illegible] to be near yours. But, Dr. Clarke has [illegible] informed [illegible] that the locality was some distance from where you are.

I suppose that this will be about the pleasantest time of the year for you, and I hope that the transfer will be made before the real hot weather begins. You say that you are losing a great many [illegible] from the unit. This makes all the more [illegible] the desirability of your being transferred as soon as possible.

I [illegible], however, that you are hopeful that the end of the war [illegible] near. I share your hope [illegible] of the [illegible] our criticism. [illegible] to [illegible] has been a little more activity [illegible]. [illegible] have been both Italian and German advances in [illegible]. I would suppose that the Bulgarians are getting [illegible] Germans cannot give them any [illegible].

[illegible] there is nothing of very special interest. You have [illegible] that owing to shortage of coal [illegible] curtail [illegible] laboratories for nearly [illegible]. [illegible] a very [illegible] was, but the coal situation [illegible] difficulties [illegible] as well as in Germany. Now that spring is [illegible] we are free from any such trouble.

[illegible] my kind regards to the [illegible] staff, and believe me,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

British Salonika Force,

April 14th.1917.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,
President of The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr.President,-

Your letter of February 23rd., reached me this morning and as it is the first word that I have had from you since your note of last December, you can imagine how pleased I was to receive it. I have been looking forward for some time to receiving some word from you or Dr.Clarke, but of course all mails from Canada have been delayed for over a month, and I concluded that sooner or later, if letters managed to escape the enemy submarines, I should receive some news from you.

Judging from later news received from my wife I conclude that the mail service to Canada has been interrupted in the same way, and possibly my letters to you may have been lost. I have however, tried to keep you posted, at practically fortnightly intervals, as to all that has been going on in connection with the Unit. Among other things I sent a detailed summary of the work done by the hospital during its first year in Salonika; I trust this did not disappear with the rest of our mail, for the report was both interesting and valuable. I have however a copy of it, and in case it did not arrive I shall be glad to furnish you with it at a later date.

It is satisfactory to us to know that the Minister of Militia considers that the work of the Canadian Units in the East has been efficiently performed. His words make us feel that our sacrifice has not been without value. We have certainly had every opportunity to do good work and our Medical staff has worked hard ever since our arrival in this area. For the greater part of the time, however, we have had to convert our Surgeons into Physicians and they have done excellent work all through.

Two days ago we were asked to again increase our capacity and now our establishment of beds is just double what it was originally. This is as the result, I take it, of the limiting of the transportation facilities and of the avowed intention of the Germans to attack Hospital Ships as well as ordinary transports.

We had received orders to hold twenty of our Nurses in readiness to proceed to England, and had also taken on the strength of our unit, twenty Nursing Sisters of the Imperial forces to replace them, but sailing orders for this were cancelled and we are still holding them in readiness to return whenever the word comes for them to do so.

I have heard unofficially from London that the recall of about a quarter of our personnel was asked for to be carried out before the first of April, and that the recall of an additional quarter was to be made a few days later, but of this no word has as yet reached

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any of the Headquarters staff in the area. All mail, however, has been delayed, which will possibly explain the delay in getting us back to England.

I have been somewhat worried concerning the safety of Miss Allwood. Miss Allwood sailed on the Hospital Ship "Asturias" from Malta and this vessel was torpedoed on the night of their arrival outside one of the English ports. We have heard indirectly that several of the Nurses were lost but so far I have been unable to get any word concerning Miss Allwood. It will be a matter of deep regret if anything has happened to her as she was returning to England in order to be near her mother who has been in poor health ever since the death of her Father, over a year ago. Miss Allwood has been of the greatest possible value to our unit ever since we have been established in Salonika.

Your news from home is of the greatest interest. I am sorry that Stanley Ryerson has been unwell but am not greatly surprised at it for he had been under the weather out here for months. His family had a great deal of sickness at home and he naturally worried greatly over this, then too, he was dissatisfied with not having as much Surgical work to do as he had expected and altogether felt that he was wasting his time here. The worry of it all, together with occasional attacks of Indigestion went far towards pulling him down. I sincerely hope that his operation and the fact of his being at home will put him on his feet again.

It is too bad that the work at the University has been interrupted owing to the shortage of coal; this must be the first time in the history of the University that work has had to be suspended from such a cause. Out here the cold has been one of the least of our difficulties. The winter here, in comparison to last year, was exceptionally mild, and we trust that the summer, should we have to stand it, will be mild in the same proportion.

Your news of the Queens' attack on us for introducing the new six year course is the first word I have heard of this matter, and the question of closing the University next winter is also news to me. I shall look forward with interest to the arrival of the two memoranda on the subject.

There is not much that I can tell you concerning the unit itself. Routine work is going on as usual and everybody just at present is in good health. We are commencing to work in quite a few entertainments by way of diversion to the personnel and patients of the Hospital, and it is surprising to find how much talent there is hidden away and only now being brought to light, in the different units in the area. The other night, for instance, one of

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the units held a Mock Trial for our benefit and put on as good a show as we ever had in Toronto of a similar nature. Tonight too we are having "Stainer's Crucifixion" given by a Choir from a neighbouring hospital, assisted by a Greek Orchestra from town. I heard the Oratorio about a week ago and it really is very good. Fancy hearing the "Crucifixion" in Macedonia.

Will you give my best regards to Mrs Falconer and Dr.Clarke.

I have delivered your message to the members of the Staff and have let them know what the Minister of Militia has thought of the work done.

Sincerely yours,

W. B. Scott

P.S. Word has arrived that Miss Allwood reached England in safety.

W.B.S.

From Dean Clarke.

Money for Postpaid.
Recall
Books

26'

British Salonika Force,

April 10th.1917.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,
President of The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr.President:-

I understand that outgoing mail from this area between April 2nd and April 8th. was lost on the way to England and as I had written you a letter on April 6th. I fancy that it has gone down with the rest. In this letter I informed you that Lt.Col. McGillivray had been invalided to England. He had been under the weather for some months and latterly went into Hospital suffering from Enteritis, not very severe, but still bad enough to incapacitate him for work and caused him a lot of worry. After two weeks' treatment he showed very little signs of improvement and we thought it better to send him out of the country without any further delay. He reached Malta alright and I received a letter from him a few days ago saying that he was feeling much better for the change. We are very sorry to lose his services, as he has been of the greatest source of comfort and help to both Officers and Nurses in the Unit. He has done most excellent work ever since he has been in charge of the Medical services. I hope, however, later on to be able to get him back with us on our return to England.

Major Parsons is now looking after the sick Nurses and Officers' wards in addition to some of the ward work for the ordinary Tommies. He has asked to be sent to England before the summer owing to the fact that he has had several attacks of Malaria, not very severe, but still giving him some trouble and anxiety, and he feels that he will not be able to stand the strain of another summer here; latterly, too, he has had a little Enteritis of a similar nature to that of Col.McGillivray. He is, however, carrying on his work and doing it well; no-one could wish for more loyal support and greater devotion to duty than he has shown right from the very beginning. I hope that in a short time prospects will look brighter for the recall of the Unit and that we may not be under the necessity of losing his services even temporarily.

Major McVicar is now acting as second in command and head of Medicine. His experience in Military matters, his energy and sound common sense, as well as his seniority in the Unit induced me to put him in charge of Medicine. He has done excellent work all through.

We have received forty nurses from the Imperial service during the last two weeks and they are now doing duty with the Unit.

Forty of our Nurses were warned to

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to hold themselves in readiness and orders were received for their embarkation, but at the last moment these orders were cancelled and the embarkation postponed indefinitely. This was done following the extra submarine activity in the Mediterranean and the consequent change of policy in the matter of evacuation from this area. I am really greatly relieved not to be compelled to send on these Nurses at a time when travelling was extremely dangerous. I fancy that as soon as conditions improve and the situation in the Mediterranean clears up, the whole of the Nurses will be sent on and the rest of the Unit recalled together instead of by drafts as was the original intention. This appears to me as being a more satisfactory arrangement than the original one. However, I have had nothing at all officially on the matter.

There is going to be difficulty in the matter of taking back our stores. This you will readily understand, and I am doing the best I can to make satisfactory arrangements with the authorities in the matter of recompense. I have already agreed to allow the Engineering services to take over our Ice Plant at a figure to be decided by the Director of Works. From what I hear I shall not be allowed to take back our Motor cars and I am making an effort to come to a satisfactory arrangement about them.

The question of our extra medical and technical equipment is still in abeyance, but I think that the authorities are prepared to act fairly with us with regard to this matter. The sole difficulty is one of transportation, and I feel that it will be safer for us to dispose of material here than to run the risk of losing it on the way back to England, particularly when we have to turn it in to the Military Forwarding Officer and either lose it on the way or be compelled to wait for months before it could be delivered to us in England.

Most of our equipment, of course, is replaceable and if I can dispose of it here to advantage I shall be in a position to get it replaced in England without the danger of losing it in transit.

The capacity of the Hospital, as I informed you a couple of weeks ago, is 2000 beds, and just at present we are busier than we have been for a year, not that we have a greater number of patients than we have formerly had, for the present there are only 1400, but we have a greater amount of surgery now and surgical work is, as you know, heavier as a rule than medical work.

There has been a great deal of activity during the past week along our front and consequently we have been getting a number of wounded, and our Surgeons are now in their element. Colonel Primrose, Stanley Ryerson and George Wilson will be sorry to have missed this opportunity

of doing work. But those who are left are carrying on and giving the greatest satisfaction. Just at present Major Malloch and Capt. Gaby are helping out at a Casualty Clearing Station up the line and Captains Watt, Mackay and Lieut. Ross, a R.A.M.C. man sent out to form part of the new Unit replacing us, are handling the surgical work in a very satisfactory manner.

Miss McEachren in charge of the operating theatre is working wonderfully well and has been of the greatest value to us. All the Nurses are doing well and I have recommended six of them for the R.R.C. I should have liked to have been able to recommend more for they all deserve recognition, but I was limited to that number of recommendations.

Just at present Captains Pearse, Ivris, Sharpe and Marlow are on leave in England. Capt. Pearse who was recently married, should have rejoined the unit before this, but from unofficial sources I heard of an effort being made to retain him in view of our immediate recall, and I fancy that the same thing would apply to the other three so that as long as we are here we shall probably be deprived of the services of these Officers. No official word however concerning any of them has as yet reached us..

The ordinary routine work of the hospital is going on as usual. We have been able to provide a little diversion for everybody by arranging to have a Cinema show here of the official picture of the Battle of the Ancre, and everybody was given an opportunity to see the famous "Tanks" in action. We had four performances, and both patients and personnel of the unit were very much pleased with the exhibition. An effort is being made by the Headquarters staff here to provide funds for buying a Mobile Cinema outfit so that all the Units in the area, as well as those at the front, will be able to see this and other shows, and for this reason they charge an admission fee of 1 franc per man and 1 franc per Officer. Rather than collect this amount from the patients and men, I made arrangements with the staff Officer managing the show, to subscribe £10 for the whole exhibition, and took this out of the funds of the Unit.

Later on I dare say we shall have an opportunity of making some definite arrangement in the matter of finances and I think that no objection would be raised on the part of the Committee at home to the payment of such an amount from the University fund. Speaking of finances, I would suggest that a Committee of, say three of the University men of the Unit be appointed on our return to England, to act as a finance committee with power to pass on all expenditures of the unit which concern the spending of University money. I would suggest names for this committee but owing to the uncertainty of everything just at present, it is hard to say just what

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University men will be with us when we get finally settled.

We shall probably lose Major McVicar in England as he wants to go with a Field unit, and Col.McGillivray may return to Canada; this leaves us Majors Parsons, Royce and Wallock and Captains Graham, Lowry and Armour, and if you have any suggestions to make in the matter, I shall be glad to hear them.

Now regarding the matter of supplies; it is altogether unlikely that we shall be allowed to take back any of our surgical dressings, and as these dressings are scarce in England and there will be great need for as many as can be had, I would suggest that the Ladies' Committee at home be asked to start making a supply of these again. That is about all we shall need; I understand the country is now flooded with Pyjamas and gowns, but if the efforts of the Committee were turned towards the making of surgical dressings it will be of great assistance to us.

The health of the unit keeps good, although just at present Miss Aline Ross is laid up with an attack of Malaria and Miss Christie is under the weather suffering from Furunculosis. Major Parsons of course has not been any too well nor has Major Royce, but both men are on duty and carrying on as usual. Capt.Aitken, one of our latter reinforcements is laid up at present with Pyrexia, but all the rest of the Unit are in pretty good condition.

With best regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A.B.Macallum

Lieut.Col. C.A.M.C.

Returned by Dr.C.K.Clarke.

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British Salonika Force,

May 1st. 1917.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,
President of The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr.President,

As a result of your letter of March 21st., to the D.M.S. London, I have been asked to inform you of any officers to whom it may be necessary to give leave on account of ill health, and to forward to the office of the D.M.S. a copy of my letter.

We have already invalided Lt.Col.McGillivray, and it may be necessary to do the same with Capt.E.P.Lewis. Capt.A.S.Lawson was invalided some months ago and I do not know whether he will rejoin the Unit. Major.T.A.Ryerson has, as you know, already reached Canada and his place has not yet been filled. It would be wise therefore to submit to the D.M.S. Canadians, the names of four members of the staff at home who could replace these officers.

Sincerely yours,

W. P. Mendows

Lt.Col.C.A.M.C.
O.C. No.4 Canadian
General Hospital.

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British Salonika Force,

May 23rd. 1917.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,
President of The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr.President:-

Since writing you on the 30th April, we have had the Committee of Valuation, appointed by the Headquarters staff, at work assessing the equipment of the hospital and making recommendations as to what material of ours they wish to retain, and what to leave with us. We received word today that they will not take over the X-Ray Plant, the Typewriters or our Surgical tables. Most of the other stuff, however, they can use here and have decided to retain. They have placed a fair valuation on everything they are going to keep and it appeals to me as being quite a satisfactory arrangement. A wave of economy has struck the area and for that reason the X-Ray plant was not taken over as the price is from four to five times that of the X-Ray machine of Army pattern. Then we have two Typewriters, which however, they do not require as they can supply the new hospital from Army sources. The Mayo Operating Tables they consider a luxury which they cannot afford. Most of the Gatch frames will be taken over however, as these supply a want which has been much felt in the area.

No further word has been received concerning the recall of the unit, and we are carrying on as if our stay here would be indefinite. The difficulty seems to be in the matter of transportation, but I have been led to believe that as soon as the situation in the Meditteranean clears, we shall be ordered on.

Captains Pearse, Imrie, Sharp and Marlow, whom I spoke to you about in my letter of 30th April, have been retained in England, and the first three mentioned will probably rejoin us on our return.

There is nothing much to report in the matter of routine. Work is going on satisfactorily and the number of patients remains at from 1300 to 1400 daily. We are getting a few more cases of Dysentery than we have had for some time, but on account of the coolness of the weather so far, the Malarial season has not commenced.

On the whole the health of the unit keeps good. Captain Shields is laid up atmpresent with a mild attack of Dysentery. Miss Fraser and Miss Martin are in hospital with slight attacks of Appendicitis.

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Miss Bastedo has been off duty for a few days with Bronchitis and Miss Stewart and Miss Jackson are having a week's rest at the Convalescent Home for Nurses. Apart from this everybody else is in pretty good shape.

Judging from the kind of weather we have been having of late, most of which has been dull and cool, prospects appear to be bright for a much less severe summer than that of last year.

With best regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely

Lieut,-Col. C.A.M.C.

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British Salonika Force,

June 29th. 1917.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,
President of The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr.President,-

Just a word to let you know that we are still in the same place and that everything is going on as usual.

The amount of work that we have to do has been diminishing and the number of cases that we have, while still over a thousand, is less now than at any time during the summer and is considerably below the figure for the corresponding time last year. This no doubt can be accounted for from the fact that the precautions taken this year and the work done in the malarious areas have been so far efficient, that there are fewer cases to handle, and then too, the number of hospitals has greatly increased since last year, which relieves the congestion in any one.

We have, of course, been anxiously awaiting for some word which will recall us to England. There is no doubt as to the fact that this recall will come, but there is a dearth of definite information in the matter which is somewhat unsettling. My greatest difficulty just at the present time is in reassuring the nurses, restoring their peace of mind and trying to keep their nerve within bounds, because the repeated changes of plans and the receiving and cancelling of orders, have certainly got on their nerves. They have however, been very good about it all and I think that they realise now, as they did not before, that the reason for their being retained in this country is out of consideration for their own safety, and that as soon as it is safe to travel, or considered so by the War Office, they will get back to England.

We are not getting very much news from England these days. Nothing has come through since May 25th., and a rumour is on foot that all mail between the 5th and 9th June, has been lost; this, however, may be without foundation and I am patiently waiting for the incoming mail which may give us some definite information.

The health of the unit continues to be very good. Two of the sisters at present have Malaria, Miss Doig and Miss Alice Ross, but we expect them to be around and back on duty very shortly. Two of the Officers, Capt.Lewis and Capt.Watts are at present at the Officers Convalescent Home, recovering from mild attacks of Enteritis, but apart from this all the other officers are in good health.

We have endeavoured to provide some diversion for all ranks by arranging a series of picnics in the surrounding district. There is a very pretty place about ten miles from camp called the "Cherry Farm" which has been the objective of most of the picnic parties, which consists of about four nurses and four officers, whom we send out in an ambulance and who spend the afternoon under the trees and away from the worries of the hospital. Then we have

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sailing parties as well. There is a delightful stretch of water near the hospital on which the parties sail over to the shore on the opposite side where they can spend an hour or so and have tea. The men mostly take advantage of this opportunity, and the result is that everybody is in a better humour for the change and the work of the unit is being done most satisfactorily.

So far the weather has been all that could be desired. We have had one or two moderately hot days, but at no time has the temperature been above 100° and it is satisfactory to know that each day carries us so much farther along in the summer which was so much dreaded after our experiences last year. Altogether we feel that we are not so badly off as we might be.

You probably know more about the plans for the hospital in England than I do. I understand there are rumours being spread in Toronto concerning changes in the administration and personnel of the unit, but I think it wise that no credence be given to these reports, which are in all probability without foundation.

With best regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,

W. P. Mendry

P.S. A paper from England, dated June 1st, containing the list of birthday honors, has just arrived, and I was more than pleased to see that you had received a Knighthood. Please accept from the fourth Canadian General Hospital our heartiest congratulations. No one is more deserving, and on no one can such an honor rest more gracefully than on yourself.

W. P. Mendry

July 5th, 1917

Lt.-Colonel [illegible],

O.C. No. 4 Canadian General Hospital (University of Toronto)

B.E.F. [illegible], France.

My dear Colonel [illegible]:

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] England. If you are any of [illegible] will of course strengthen you a great deal.

We have been distressed to know that Dr. MacGillivray has had such a close call and hope that he will not be seriously the worse of it. You mentioned to me that Dr. Ransom was not very well, and

some one suggested to me last week that it might be advisable for us to ask for his services for next winter. If you think that he ought to come I shall be glad to write and ask that he be detailed to us for regular service next winter.

The regular session for the fifth year is to begin on the 15th of August. We are now about closed up for the summer, though I have [illegible] where they are very busy. There has never been such a fourth of July. It was celetrated with great notriety. The city is full of people so that it is almost impossible to get hotel accommodation, and they are of opinion that progress will be continued all summer. There is no doubt that they are looking upon this war seriously and that it has engaged their [illegible].

Please give my kind remembrances to all your staff ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

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June 6th, 1917

Lt.-Colonel N. E. Hendry, D.S.O.,

O.C. No.4 Canadian General Hospital (University of Toronto),

B.E.F., Salonica, Greece.

My dear Colonel Hendry:

In the first place let me congratulate you very heartily on the distinction that has just been conferred upon you by the King . Not only I, myself, have been delighted but I am confident that I speak for the whole University when I say that we rejoice with you in this honour. You have filled a difficult place with a great deal of excellent judgment, and I am sure that you have earned this distinction by all the faithful service unobtrusively performed. We have full confidence in you and believe that as the Commanding Officer of the Hospital you will serve the University in the best possible way.

I was greatly interested in the last letter that I received from you. I think that you missed one of mine and that one of yours may not have reached me. We are constantly thinking about you and surmising as to what the movements of the Hospital will be. Seeing that you yourself have so little to guide you we cannot be but in a state of uncertainty. We had been hoping that long before this you would have been back in England, and perhaps you will be there before we are aware of it, but I am going to send this letter to Salonica.

Our ladies will be glad to do anything for the Hospital that

you may want when you get to England. Meantime, however, they are continuing to work for the Red Cross on the understanding that when you arrive in England you can immediately indent whatever you want. This is the understanding that our ladies have with the Red Cross. They will be glad, however, to hear from you any details which will be a guide to them as to what you will require when you come to England.

I judge from your letter that you have had a number of cases from those who have been in active service at the front, but our information is very meagre as to what is happening on the Macedonian front.

Mrs. Hendry will have told you what is happening here. We had a very interesting visit from the Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, who won all hearts by his graciousness. Shortly before that the Commencement was held and the general academic work of the year closed.

You will have heard that the fifth year in Medicine is to commence on the 15th of August and is to run through till March in order that the graduates may be atle to get away for spring work. We do not know what to expect with regard to students next year. My own opinion is that we have probatly nearly touched bottom in attendance, because if conscription goes into effect the age will be set at 20, and boys will be advised to enter the University. Moreover, the demand for doctors is so great that it is likely we may have quite an attendance of students especially in view of the extension of the course to six years.

Dr. Clarke will probably be writing to you about matters of the Hospital, and anything special about the Faculty of Medicine you will

have heard through your friends.

I hope that Dr. Parsons is better and that the staff as a whole is keeping well. Please give my kind regards to them all, and believe me,

Yours sincerely,

President.